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The Campus

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Meadville, Pennsylvania
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SKATING RINK OPEN

See NEWS | page 3

SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Gator Activities Programming partnered with Allegheny Recreation to bring a synthetic ice rink to the Henderson Campus Center parking lot.

COVID-19 on campus, policy changes

67 students in quarantine, isolation on campus

By **BREE GRAY**
News Editor
grayb@allegheny.edu

The start of the semester brings new changes to existing COVID-19 policies, and 34 students have been placed in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19 exposure on campus.

According to Allegheny College Health Agency's Dr. Gabrielle Morrow, 15 students tested positive for COVID-19 on campus — those students are in isolation. An additional 52 students are in quarantine following contact tracing. There are currently no active COVID-19 cases among faculty and staff.

"There are not that many students in quarantine and isolation," said Allegheny Student Government President Abdikadir Lugundi, '21. "Our numbers are very low and I am sure that we have lower numbers compared to other institutions. I just hope that we can keep that going so we can stay on campus and get as much out of our on-campus experience as we can."

Morrow sent an email to the campus community on Feb. 22 regarding COVID-19 testing results. According to Morrow, 1,141 students were tested during move-in and only two students tested positive for COVID-19 with 154 tests pending results.

The next day, the ACHA sent another email to the campus community, which announced that there was an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases on campus. The 154 remaining tests from move-in returned with five positive results. With contact tracing, six additional students were quarantined.

"That is a very low number that reflects the thoughtfulness of Allegheny students," ACHA wrote. "The vast majority of students are doing a great job keeping each other safe. However, a few students have been behaving in ways that violate the Gator Pledge. Those behaviors place the Allegheny and Meadville communities at risk and go against the commitment we have all made to keeping the campus safe … It is unacceptable to place students, employees, or members of the local community at risk."

Morrow reminded students that last semester, the second round of testing unveiled clusters of COVID-19 on campus due to a student violating the Gator Pledge.

"Students should expect that they will need to go off-campus and study remotely if they are not willing to uphold the Gator Pledge," the ACHA stated.

The second round of on-campus testing took place from Feb. 25-26 in the David V. Wise Center.

In an email to the campus community, on March 1, Morrow announced the results of the second round of PCR testing. 1,184 students were tested with six tests returning positive for COVID-19.

"This bodes well for a safe in-person semester," Morrow wrote. "When evaluating the students who tested positive, I primarily noted common living situations and proximity/physical connections to students who tested positive during prior testing sessions in the past several weeks. I did not find any egregious behavior among those who are positive, so if you find yourself ascribing poor motives to COVID-19 positive students, please reconsider. The reality is that this is a highly contagious virus — far more contagious than influenza with a longer incubation period — so people who live in close proximity to each other are likely to infect each other."

See COVID | page 2

ASG discusses initiatives, elections

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Allegheny Student Government's second meeting of module two brought about new clubs and updates on initiatives, including the upcoming Green Box Week.

With no guest speakers, ASG's general assembly commenced with cabinet reports at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday, Mar. 3, via Zoom.

Chief of Staff Emma Godel, '21 started off her report by providing an update of her new mental health awareness initiative, "Strive to Thrive."

"I met with Casey Cole, who is the advisor for the Gator Activities Programming and Fraternity and Sorority Life" Godel said. "We had a pretty positive meeting about the mental health initiative I'm putting together."

Godel then moved on to an update regarding the upcoming ASG presidential election debate, scheduled for Mar. 9.

A Google form on ASG's Instagram page will act as the student body's platform to ask questions of the presidential candidates. Anonymity will be assumed in asking questions unless stated otherwise.

"Please don't open it (the questions Google form) on your phone, it can shut you out," Godel said. "Do it on your computer.".

Attorney General Jack Parker, '22, began his report by stating that the technology check for the upcoming presidential debate will tentatively be run this weekend.

"(Provost and Dean of the College) Ron Cole … is locked in as the moderator for the debate and he's looking forward to that very much," Parker said.

Parker then introduced the co-president of the All Gender Equity Society, Marshall Ramos, '24.

"AGES is a place where trans students and non-binary students can come togeether and have that sense of community that we're all looking for," Ramos said.

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Campus-wide quarantine extended until further notice

More active, positive cases identified than any time in fall semester

By **CHRISTOPHER WAKIM**
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Dr. Gabrielle Morrow of the Allegheny College Health Agency announced via email late March 3 that the previous quarantine period scheduled to end on March 4 will be extended. No estimated end of the quarantine period was offered in this statement.

According to Morrow, 67 students are currently in quarantine and isolation. Many of these students are close contacts of 15 current positive COVID-19 cases.

"This is higher than our total at any time in the fall." Dr. Gabrielle Morrow stated in the email.

Morrow explained the reasons for the elevated numbers of students, citing that most students who tested positive were clustered. Students who may have been in proximity with the 15 positive cases will be tested, and the regularly scheduled randomized testing will also be conducted.

"If you are invited to test in the next two days, it does not necessarily mean that someone near you tested positive," Morrow said. "Contact tracing has been completed, and all exposed persons have been notified and are in quarantine."

Morrow emphasized the ease with which COVID-19 transmits.

"The goal of extending the campus quarantine is to prevent an outbreak that would force us to shift to fully remote education either temporarily or permanently," Morrow said.

The email then continued to explain that reconsideration for when the ACHA will end quarantine at "the end of this week."

IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS

GERMAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION

The Max Kade Foundation sponsered community presentation about German business culture.

Page 2



BENTELY HALL COMPLETION DELAYED AGAIN

College announced that Bentley Hall renovation will be delayed because of COVID-19.

Page 7



SPRING SPORTS TO RETURN

College announced that there will be a spring season for sports after a year.

Page 8

FRIDAY
H: 28° L: 21°
Rain: 9%
Sunrise: 6:48 a.m.
Sunset: 6:16 p.m.

SATURDAY
H: 28° L: 18°
Rain: 8%
Sunrise: 6:47 a.m.
Sunset: 6:17 p.m.

SUNDAY
H: 37° L: 23°
Rain: 4%
Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 6:18 p.m.

Max Kade Foundation sponsors German presentation

By **BREE GRAY**
News Editor
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On March 2, the Max Kade Foundation sponsored President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the German American Chamber of Commerce Rachel Mauer's presentation, "More than just Autos und Bier," on German business and culture.

"The Max Kade Foundation's main goal is to bring together the interest in German speaking countries and people who are present (in the United States), interested in international collaboration as well as in the German language and culture," said Assistant Professor of German Julia Ludewig.

Mauer was introduced by Andrew Strobel, '24, an intern at the German-American Chamber of Commerce chapter in Pittsburgh. Mauer is an alumna of Cornell University where she studied both German and political science.

"When I decided on my language (in college), I knew that my language would steer my career and, perhaps, where I lived and worked," Mauer said. "I realized how important the selection of language really was."

Mauer recommended that students interested in taking a second language pursue German. She added that there are a lot of German speakers, especially in business and science. According to Mauer, individuals with German listed on their resume earn 3.8% more than another employee without German listed as a skill.

Mauer's presentation also detailed her work with the Chamber of Commerce as well as the cultural differences between Germans and Americans and the implications of those differences during business negotiations and affairs.

"Our biggest mission is economic development for our region through the strengthening of ties between German and our Western Pennsylvania region," Mauer said.

Mauer oversees both large and small German companies during their overseas expansion to Pittsburgh.

"Mittelstand companies, smaller companies, are typically family or private owned and are the heart and soul of Germany," Mauer said.

The smaller, specialized companies are very important to the German economy, Mauer said. German companies are very specialized and often have their own niche within the market. This distinction stems from apprenticeship programs that teach individuals how to be successful within a specific industry. Germany has 365 apprenticeship programs that allow students to gain hands-on experience within an industry. Typically, students enroll in an apprenticeship program in Germany prior to attending college whereas in the U.S. students enter into a college program or the workforce after high school.

Mauer continued to highlight differences between business culture. German companies tend to be more medium-to-long term business oriented compared to American companies that focus on the short term. German companies are less focused on immediate profits, but more focused on investments that will be profitable later.

Mauer also addressed the differences between punctuality in American and German cultures, especially in business relations. She recalled hosting an event where the German representatives showed up 45 minutes early and the American representatives showed up 20 minutes late.

Her chapter of the Chamber of Commerce dedicates their time to finding which German companies could do well in the Pittsburgh region in the long term. The majority of the companies represented under her chapter are small businesses in very specialized fields compared to larger companies.

Students have the opportunity to apply for an internship with the German-American Chamber of Commerce. Strobel mentioned that he enjoyed his internship with the chapter.

"There are a lot of opportunities (with German companies)," Mauer said. "(At the German-American Chamber of Commerce,) we require that students have some (experience with) German because there are times when documents come through (in German) and we want you to be able to identify them. We will not make you do any technical translations if you are still a beginner speaker, but we do support the German language in our chapter."

Mauer noted that the chapter is bipartisan and does not engage in lobbying efforts or politically charged events. Instead, the chapter focuses on maintaining business relations with international companies while competing with other regions to bring new industries to Pittsburgh.

"The transatlantic trade between Germany and the United States continues to grow and that has been resilient no matter what (political) outlook we have and even in a pandemic," Mauer said.

Following her presentation, the audience was granted the opportunity to ask questions. The discussion was moderated by Kaylin Tang, '22.

Mauer reflected upon how her perspective has changed throughout her professional career due to exposure to different cultures and people.

"I am very thankful for the value that my career has brought me from working with a lot of different companies and perspectives," Mauer said. "I am married to an Austrian, too, so I get to experience the cultural challenges on a daily basis — this makes me stop and think that I have been viewing it this way and then you realize that is a very American view you start noticing your own blindspots to approaching business."

Anyone interested in contacting Mauer can email her at rmauer@gaccpit.com.

"If you do not hear back from me, please write a second email," Mauer said. "Do not ever worry about sending a follow-up email to anyone. It is a world of emails right now — say I get 50 emails today and another 50 tomorrow, I have a hard time getting back (to you)."

> "When I decided on my language (in college), I knew that my language would steer my career and, perhaps, where I lived and worked. I realized how important the selection of language really was."
>
> —RACHEL MAUER
> Co-Founder and President,
> German-American Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Chapter

CAREER EDUCATION

WANTS to MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

HOT

WestPACS
Collegiate Career Fair
Handshake Event #697488

Wednesday, March 10
11:00 am - 4 pm

G2U PGH Spring 2021 Government Virtual Career + Internship Fair
Handshake Event #703410

Thursday, March 18
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

You can also use
Handshake
to schedule an appointment with a career counselor!

Follow us on social media!
@accareered | Allegheny Career Education

COVID *from page 1*

Rumors surfaced that students contracted COVID-19 from the dining halls, but Morrow denied that accusation. Parkhurst, however, has been advised to modify their procedures to ensure student safety is prioritized.

"Over the next few days, we will be administering rapid tests to a random sampling of students and also to students who might have shared a bathroom or other space with a student who is positive for COVID-19," Morrow announced. "If we feel that we have uncovered and managed all possible areas of contagion before March 4, we will happily lift the campus quarantine earlier."

Until the testing is complete, students must remain on campus for the duration of the campus-wide quarantine, which was supposed to end on March 4.

Students can expect to be selected at random to continue community COVID-19 testing throughout the semester. ACHA will test 120-160 community members each day by invitation — no walk-ins are permitted.

"Also, plan for a positive result, just in case: employees should bring keys, wallet, and phone, and students should bring supplies for a potential 10-day isolation," Morrow advised. "No one who tests positive may return to their workspace or living space. We have a quiet room reserved at the Wise Center for those who test positive to gather their thoughts, call family, and plan their isolation."

ACHA has made several changes this semester in lieu of recent research released by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Water fountains have been turned back on and students are able to use them on campus.

"Water fountains have been keeping me up at night," Morrow wrote. "ACHA has made the carefully considered decision to reopen water fountains. The data on COVID-19 speaks to much higher transmission through the air, and the CDC has recommendations for frequent cleaning of water fountains, which we will follow at Allegheny College. Students have told us that they find closed water fountains burdensome, and since the risk is negligible, we will reopen them."

Students will see more hand sanitizers, physical distancing mats and 20-second readings on campus in the near future, Morrow announced. These changes were led by students from Gaia Rancati's ECON 230: Neuromarketing class. Any student interested in helping ACHA is encouraged to email Rancati.

The institution and ACHA also introduced functional groups this semester.

"Thank you to the campus community for your continued effort and cooperation in creating a community of mutual care," the college wrote to the campus community. "As part of our ongoing efforts to keep the campus community safe while offering in-person living and learning, we are excited to introduce functional groups. Functional groups are a safe way for our community members to be socially connected to each other and to care for themselves physically and emotionally."

Functional groups were created by NCAA to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19, which has already been used by the athletic department. These groups are students who participate in the same activities.

"I think that it is great that the school is lining up clubs to have more participation," Lugundi said. "Our clubs are struggling to get participation, especially among first-year students and I think this may be a good way to increase participation and attempt to alleviate this issue."

ASG-recognized organizations are also encouraged to join a functional group to socialize more this semester.

"This is a strategy for mitigating virus spread by keeping our physical circle small and allowing for quick contact tracing," the college announced. "All community groups who choose to participate in functional groups must register such participation with ACHA by email, with the advisor (of the organization) copied. Please include the advisor's name, the names of the members of the group in your email and detail your plans for safe congregation."

Despite the changes, all students are still required to obey the Gator Pledge and existing policies for congregations, including masking and physical distancing.

College provides synthetic ice rink for students to skate

By **CHRISTOPHER WAKIM**
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By **HASSAN JAVED**
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A portion of the Henderson Campus Center's upper parking lot has been transformed into an ice skating rink available to students free of charge until Sunday, March 7.

Much like the rink from Winterfest in 2019, this acrylic "ice-less" rink was sponsored by Allegheny Recreations and Gator Activities Programming.

According to Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students April Thompson, the college decided to use synthetic ice as opposed to real ice to prevent serious injuries and ensure that students would be able to skate even in warmer temperatures.

The total capacity is limited to 25 individuals, and mask guidelines and social distancing protocols remain in effect on the synthetic ice. Students are not required to have any experience with ice skating, and skate aids as well as helpers are available for students to use.

Jabriya Hester, '21, president of GAP, explained the uniqueness of the rink, especially during this period of on-campus quarantine.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Skates available for students to skate on the synthetic rink in the parking lot of the Hendesron Campus Center.

> It's a way for students to get out of their rooms and interact with people while also being safe. Although we are stuck on campus … students have a way to interact without having to be worried about (COVID-19)."
>
> —JABRIYA HESTER, '21
> GAP President

"The ice rink requires special skates," Hester said. "It's a way for students to get out of their rooms and interact with people while also being safe. Although we are stuck on campus … students have a way to interact without having to be worried about (COVID-19)."

Skates were provided for students to use at the rink. Student organizations are able to host a refreshments stand for students at the skating rink. On Friday, Feb. 26, the day the rink opened, GAP hosted a refreshment stand, providing hot chocolate and snacks for the participants.

Hester reflected upon her experience at the skating rink and encouraged other students to participate as well.

"If you are able to make it, it is an interesting experience," Hester said.

The following day, on Saturday, Feb. 27, Grounds for Change hosted a refreshments stand that featured coffee and pastries.

Bill Ochieng, '24, works at the ice rink and provided some insight on its operations.

Student workers, like Ochieng, supervise the rink to ensure that everyone is obeying COVID-19 guidelines and college policies. Prior to using the rink, students have to fill out a COVID-19 disclosure form. This form affirmed that they have recently tested negative for the COVID-19, Ochieng explained.

"We also sanitize pens (used to fill out forms) and skates after they are used," Ochieng said.

Ochieng mentioned that students are able to socialize at the rink under physical distancing guidelines and meet new people, which is important, especially to first-year students. "The rink has been a great experience to learn something new and to meet lots of new people," Ochieng said. "This is my first semester on campus so it is great to see so many new people."

In an email to the campus community, on March 3, Allegheny College Health Agency's Dr. Gabrielle Morrow announced that campus-wide quarantine had been extended until further notice.

"I am writing to inform you that the campus quarantine will unfortunately not be lifted tomorrow, March 4," Morrow wrote. "Right now, there are 67 students in quarantine and isolation. Fifteen students are currently positive for COVID-19; this is higher than our total at any time in the fall."

The ice rink will be open tonight and tomorrow evening from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is unknown if the ice rink will continue to be available for the duration of the campus-wide quarantine extension.

ASG *from page 1*

President of the Class of 2024 Kristin Cadham raised the motion to approve AGES' constitution and was seconded by Senator Emily Mullen, '24. The motion passed unanimously.

Following Parker, Director of Communications and Press Bree Gray, '23, commenced her report by stating that the AGS bi-weekly newsletter is now out and in circulation.

"I met with (College Relations Marketing Content Specialist) Emma Highland to work on how to increase participation within ASG for our newsletter, so we're going to be working on ways we can revamp our newsletter so it's more public and open to a lot of different students as well as administrators and faculty," Gray said.

Gray then reinforced her initiatives for quarantined students by announcing ASG's potential collaboration with Allegheny College Health Agency.

"Director of Finance Noah Tart ('22) and I met with Dr. Gabrielle Morrow of the ACHA to go over some of the things we'd like to see for our quarantined students."

Tart followed with a financial request from the speaker budget of $1,000 for a speaker for Black Girl Magic.

Vice President of the Class of 2023 Lucas Biniewski raised the motion to approve the financial request and was seconded by Senator Tyler Znaczko, '24. The motion passed unanimously.

Tart then presented a financial report in which he stated that only 6.31% of the ASG general budget has been spent for the academic year. Tart predicted that a considerable surplus fund will be added to the ASG budget for the following academic year.

"I'm hoping to end this year with a nice sizable surplus total for the year," Tart said. "COVID has kind of put a wrench in the works for social events but any money that ASG does not spend is added to the surplus budget for next year so (ASG) will have more to work with."

Co-Directors of Student Affairs Gena Pena, '22, and Crystal Hernandez, '23, followed by presenting their initiative to introduce free feminine sanitary products on campus. They also mentioned that they had been in conversation with eight other colleges and universities that currently offer free feminine sanitary products.

Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Willy Walker, '22, commenced his report by announcing next week as the tentative date for the beginning of "Green Box Week."

Green Box Week, also known as Green Box Revival Week, involves the practice of using green boxes during mealtimes in order to eat without creating additional compost waste.

Official ASG members, according to Walker, will be tabling in Brooks Dining Hall to inform and encourage students about the initiative.

The Allegheny College Billiards Club was then introduced to the GA.

Biniewski raised the motion to approve the Billiards Club and was seconded by Senator Kyrie Doniz, '23. The motion passed unanimously and the Billiards Club's constitution was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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>
> —NOAH TART, '22
> ASG Director of Finance

CRIME BLOTTER

Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.

Feb. 27, 2021
Trespass
Bentley Hall

Feb. 28, 2021
Alcohol Violation
Baldwin Hall

March 02, 2021
Theft
Vukovich Center

THE CAMPUS
since 1876

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Best pizza in Crawford County

My favorite places to get local pizza

By **KALEIGH WHITE**
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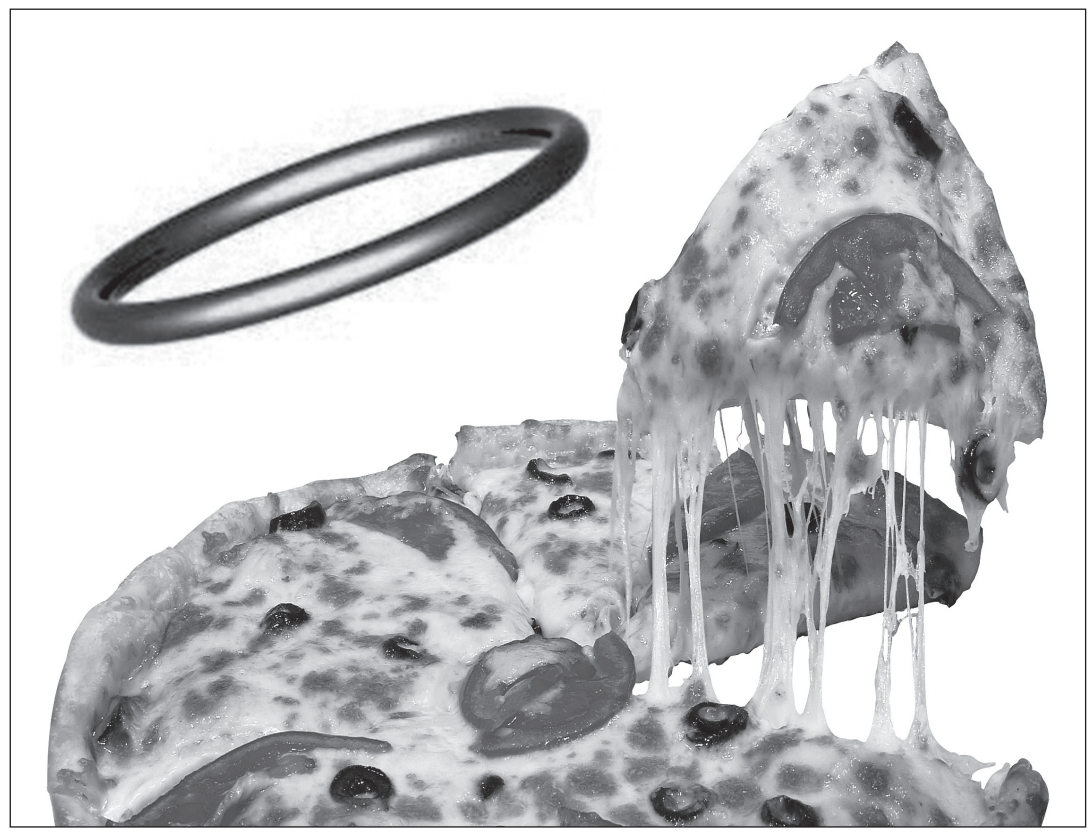

PIZZA photo courtesy of PIXY.ORG; HALO PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIPART-LIBRARY.COM.

Although we cannot leave campus at this time, once the campus quarantine is lifted, there will once again be an overwhelming desire for off-campus pizza. Students will be flooding Domino's with online orders and getting it delivered to their dorm-step.

As someone who has lived in Crawford County for my entire life, this is always disheartening to see. There are so many great, locally-owned pizza places in Meadville alone that Domino's can and should be an afterthought, reserved only for if delivery is absolutely needed.

Additionally, there are many smaller chain pizza restaurants that are also often overlooked. If you or someone close to you has a car, the options for pizza increase tenfold, and there are so many good options that many students do not even know exist. Here is an in-depth look at some of the best local pizza places, including the pros and cons of each restaurant and an analysis of their pizza's quality.

One restaurant that a fair amount of students recognize is Vocelli Pizza. Vocelli's is located on Park Avenue near Rite Aid, so it is very close to campus. Their pizza is more expensive than some of the other options, but their ingredient quality is almost unbeatable. They use high-quality ingredients, from the crust to the pepperoni. In fact, the pepperoni they use is of the highest quality, the kind that curls into bowls when the pizza is baked and puddles small pools of grease in the center. The cheese also bakes and develops a gentle crust in the way that only quality cheese can, so that it is still soft and chewy but also does not slide off of the crust. The sauce and the crust I would say are the most lackluster parts of the pizza, as they are mostly just complementary to the cheese and pepperoni; there is nothing extraordinary or notable about their crust or sauce, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

Additionally, Vocelli's delivers to campus, so you can get your pizza delivered contact-free to your dorm. The pizza is incredible overall, and I would recommend Vocelli Pizza to anyone who is wanting higher-quality pizza and is able to pay more for it.

If you are willing to travel a little bit more, there are two great pizza places in Conneaut Lake that are definitely worth the trip. The first is Ice House Pizza, and the second is Pizza Joe's. Pizza Joe's is a regional pizza chain with a fair number of stores in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio.

Their pizza is very good, with their strongest points being their sauce and the abundance of toppings on each pizza. Their sauce is neither overly sweet, nor overly spicy, and is a nice middle-ground sauce that does not leave you queasy or tasting the sauce for days to come. Their toppings are good quality, but this is one of their strong points because of the sheer amount they put on each pizza. Their large pizzas are very big, and a single pizza can easily feed a small friend group.

Furthermore, unlike some restaurants, Pizza Joe's does not use fewer toppings on larger pizzas, or the same amount on the large ones as on the smaller ones. They do a very good job of giving customers what they paid for when it comes to the sheer amount of food that one is receiving. While their prices are a little more steep than Domino's, you definitely get quality as well as quantity from Pizza Joe's that Domino's simply does not.

Ice House Pizza is in downtown Conneaut Lake. Formerly called Eagle Nest Pizza, and located a few blocks from my house in Linesville, they truly represent a fantastic phoenix metaphor. In April of 2019, their restaurant in Linesville caught fire and completely burned to the ground. It was a total loss.

Approximately one year later, in late spring of 2020, they opened their doors for pickup orders from their new location in Conneaut Lake, and are officially now Ice House Pizza. The owners are wonderful people who are always willing to donate their time, energy and food to people in need, including sometimes supplying food to local families that struggle to make ends meet.

The pizza itself is quite good, as far as pizzas go. The crust is pretty thin, and the cheese is pretty solid, but it is not solid in a way that tastes like rubber. Rather, the cheese is fully formed around the crust and every bite is full and delicious. I am personally not a huge fan of thick-crust pizza, but I also do not like my pizza to be thin and brittle.

Ice House does a good job of having a more in-between crust that is not outrageously thick but is also still substantial, although it does lean more to the thin-crust side. They also have a heavy hand when it comes to toppings, and like Pizza Joe's, will never leave you short on pepperoni or cheese. They also have a lot of specialty pizzas, such as taco pizza and shrimp scampi pizza, which are more expensive but still awesome options for people who are feeling adventurous.

Additionally, they recently added a bakery section to their restaurant. While I have no idea what a cannoli is, my friends from home rave about them. My mother brought me a half-dozen donuts for myself and my roommates for my birthday, and they were not only delicious, but delightfully decorated as well. The prices are completely reasonable and Ice House Pizza will easily fill you up. Their menu is large, the portions are outrageous and the owners are local people who do good in our community. As with Pizza Joe's, the biggest problem is the lack of delivery options. By all means, if you have a car and a little extra money to spend on your pizza, there is no better option than Ice House Pizza for a thin- or thinner-crust pizza.

Another good option for pizza closer to home is Pizza Villa, just south of Diamond Park in Meadville on South Main Street. Their pizza crust is made fresh every single day, guaranteeing peak softness and flavor. The crust is a large selling point for them, and in my opinion, is their best feature. The pizza as a whole is quite delicious, with a proportionate amount of cheese and toppings and a sauce that nicely complements whatever toppings are added. Their menu is substantially smaller than that of most restaurants, with their only pizza size being 12-inch round. What they lack in variety, they more than make up for in price and accessibility.

Their prices are on the lower side, given the quality of the pizza and the amount that you receive, and the fact that it is a locally-owned restaurant. However, they are one of — if not the only — local pizza restaurants that offers frozen pizzas for you to take home and bake yourself. For students with access to a kitchen or lounge with an oven, this means access to restaurant-quality pizza for multiple weekends with a single trip to Pizza Villa.

Pizza Villa also excels in atmosphere and aesthetics. When in-person dining was available pre-pandemic, it was always an experience to go to Pizza Villa as opposed to any other pizza restaurant in the area. The original Pizza Villa dates back to the 1950s, and has been a staple in the Meadville community for many years. The inside of the restaurant is cozy and inviting, with wall murals painted by an Allegheny College student modeled after the murals in the original location. The restaurant also has two sides, the second of which serves ice cream, and in particular, Marcie's Homemade Ice Cream.

If you have never had Marcie's Homemade Ice Cream, you are certainly missing out. Marcie's is a locally-owned ice cream company that locally sources all of their ingredients from dairy farmers in Crawford County and the surrounding areas. The range of flavors is incredible, along with the thick and creamy taste that you can only get from homemade ice cream. This alone is worth a trip to Pizza Villa once in-person dining becomes safe again.

There are certainly more than a few other pizza places that I have not mentioned here. The ones mentioned in this article are, in my opinion, the best and most iconic places to get pizza in Crawford County. These places have the best taste, quality and overall value of any others in the area. Of course, if you are really in a pinch and need your pizza delivered, Domino's is a valid option. Their pizza is relatively high-quality and can be delivered to any building on campus.

I have nothing against Domino's, and will likely get delivery at least a few times this semester. However, before pouring all of our hard-earned money into a national chain restaurant, it is at least worth considering the other available options that benefit real, local people that give back to the community, especially given how good they are in comparison.

A case for teaching critical thinking in public schools

By **PEYTON BRITT**
Opinion Editor
brittp@allegheny.edu

As I begin to study for the Law School Admission Test, a test which focuses almost exclusively on one's ability to reason well and identify flaws in reasoning, I have found myself strangely entertained by the demands such an exam makes upon its takers. Because it tests the unique set of skills required to make inferences, apply common sense and read both accurately and critically, it is impossible to effectively cram for the LSAT.

For exactly these reasons, as well as its strict time constraints, the LSAT is generally considered a pretty difficult test. As I form my own study habits and methods in the hopes of improving my capacity for critical thinking, I have found myself thinking that while the sort of skill I seek to refine is something that must be attained through sustained habit and diligence, this necessary consistency is not necessarily all that difficult, just unfamiliar.

This thought has led me to a question: why haven't I been taught critical thinking in my 15 years of education up to this point? Given the real-world value of being able to look at a set of claims, identify what the speaker is arguing, what evidence they offer in support of that argument and what possible gaps between the claim and its support there may be, it is almost startling that, at least in my own experience, this sort of knowledge has not been prioritized in curriculum.

Sure, critical thinking has been quietly present in many of the assignments I have been given in the past, and it is certainly beneficial to one's K-12 experience to have good critical thinking skills. Critical thinking has also been an implicit expectation in many parts of my education thus far, such as writing strong thesis statements and participating in class discussions. Still, I argue that it should be explicitly and thoroughly covered in schools, maybe even as its own distinct area of focus.

You may be thinking that schools are underfunded and teachers are overworked as is; why pile yet another responsibility on educators? I would argue that good critical thinking skills could function beautifully in public school curriculums as a facilitator of the development of the sort of skills that make learning everything else easier — a learning lubricant, if you will.

By teaching children the specific terminology (argument, conclusion, inference, fallacy and so on) that relates to evaluating arguments, they could not only learn how to verbalize precisely why they intuit the strength or weakness of ideas with which they are presented, but also to more efficiently structure, articulate and revise their own ideas.

These skills are a Swiss army knife — a pocket-sized tool for many common needs and purposes — and kids need to be armed for the vast and varied quandaries they will face in life after high school, whether that entails higher education or pursuing employment.

I am biased: I am a philosophy major, something that requires careful thought and diligent scrutiny of arguments, and, as I previously mentioned, I have been spending a decent amount of time studying exactly the thing for which I am arguing. Still, it stands to reason that thinking well is critical to thinking well about whatever particular given thing. That the fundamentals of logic and reasoning are not covered in K-12 courses is discordant with how crucial and important they are to doing well in school.

My argument is, put most simply, this: critical thinking is deeply important to all other areas of study; therefore it should be taught in schools. Although the importance of critical thinking may be something that we can all reflectively acknowledge, the current education system does not reflect this — that is a problem, even if critical thinking is sometimes practically rewarded with good grades.

> "I would argue that good critical thinking skills could function beautifully in public school curriculums as a facilitator of the development of the sort of skills that make learning everything else easier — a learning lubricant, if you will."
>
> —PEYTON BRITT
> Class of 2022

On the subject of grading, it is relevant to consider how the standard numerical grading systems currently in place factor into the general undervaluing of explicit training in critical thinking. Numbers are pretty nifty; objective standards for evaluating schools are, at least in the world we live in, necessary for matters such as the awards of government funding.

Numbers cannot, however, accurately reflect the invaluable, real-time mental processes one engages in when critically assessing a piece of information or argument. Moreover, numbers punish mistakes, which are a crucial element of the process of reflecting on and then ameliorating one's cognitive shortcomings.

If the education system is going to require children that they exhibit good thinking skills in order to succeed in school, then it is a necessary responsibility to teach those skills. More importantly, if the mission of education is to enrich young minds, then critical thinking, the very core of much of our daily mental activity, should be given due respect and space in the classroom.

To teach kids information without teaching them how to think, regardless of whether or not good thinking is rewarded already, is to produce parrots.

Global vaccine distribution challenges and inequities

By **GEORGE ACKERMAN**
Science/International Editor
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Worldwide, less than one percent of people have received the full dosage of any version of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to data provided by Our World in Data. This number is sure to increase in the coming weeks and over the next year, as a little over three percent of the world's population will be at least partially vaccinated.

News of the vaccine may mean an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed 2,520,550 people around the world, according to the World Health Organization.

Israel, the United Arab Emirates, the nations comprising the United Kingdom and the United States are among the leaders in vaccinations, with Israel leading the world in per capita vaccinations at 36.7% of their population receiving the full dosage.

Globally, the current daily rate of vaccinations is at 6.73 million doses per day, with the potential of that increasing because of better distribution and new vaccines being approved, according to bloomberg.com's COVID-19 vaccine tracker webpage. At this rate the Bloomberg tracker estimated that it will take 4.5 years to vaccinate 75% of the global population with two dose vaccines.

Epidemiologist and Professor of Global Health and Biology Becky Dawson, '00, thinks that we are not dealing with an ideal vaccine distribution situation, but is encouraged by the existence of vaccines and sees vaccines as providing an extra layer of protection against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ideal (vaccine distribution) would be that we would get to the most at-risk populations first across the board" Dawson said. "It would be lovely if that happened universally first."

According to Dawson, we are not dealing with an ideal vaccine for global distribution due to how cold it needs to be kept throughout the chain of distribution, but as of Feb. 27, the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was approved for emergency use in the United States. This vaccine differs from current vaccines in that it can be stored at a higher temperature than current options and is administered in only one shot, according to Dawson and a press release from Johnson and Johnson.

"We are only going to be as healthy as the sickest person," Dawson said. "As we think about how we protect — whether it's our community here in Meadville, whether we think about the state or country or the continent we live on — we have to vaccinate people all over the world."

Dawson also thinks that the conditions created by the pandemic will not be eliminated if and when every American is vaccinated.

"It just doesn't work that way because the virus does not know international boundaries," Dawson said, referencing the ease of travel from different countries and parts of the world.

The COVAX program is an effort to combat unequal vaccine distribution and distribute vaccines.

This program is led by Gavi, a vaccine distributor backed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the WHO.

On March 1, the COVAX program distributed its first vaccines in The Ivory Coast, according to Time.

By the end of 2021, the COVAX program hopes to deliver two billion vaccine doses.

During the Trump administration, the United States declined to participate in the COVAX program, but President Biden has since reversed this decision, committing $2 billion to the effort, according to Time.

Dawson sees the organizations as leaders on vaccine distribution, with Gavi having a reputation for providing low-cost vaccines and both the WHO and Gavi having networks of effective vaccine distribution.

> The virus does not know international boundaries.
>
> —BECKY DAWSON, '00, Epidemiologist and Global Health Studies Professor, Allegheny College

"They're the two organizations that are going to get vaccines to people, and they have been getting vaccines to people for other diseases for decades now," Dawson said. "Those are the types of groups that we, not just individually, but as a country need to be supportive of, and need to be willing to make financial contributions to."

With increasing vaccination rates, the hope of eventually returning to normal through achieving herd immunity is becoming more prevalent. Dawson emphasized that American citizens should not be hyper-focused on U.S. vaccination numbers.

"This pandemic is not going to end by getting every American vaccinated," Dawson said. "It's going to end when there's global immunity."

Dawson was also concerned about just and equitable global distribution.

"The justice piece of this isn't just (that) every life is valuable — which is true," Dawson said. "The flip side of it is that if we want global health, like true elimination of this disease so that we aren't living in pandemic situations, vaccination across the board ... has to be the priority."

In terms of how much the vaccine will constitute an end to the pandemic, Dawson saw a real possibility that current precautions, along with the vaccine will help mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's not the silver bullet that's going to solve all of our problems, but we know how to mitigate disease spread, and we know those things work," Dawson said. "Between that and having adequate testing so we know who is sick and who is not, vaccines are going to add that extra layer of immunity so we can start decreasing community spread."

Protests occur worldwide

Professor Shanna Kirschner elaborates on unique world circumstances

By **GEORGE ACKERMAN**
Science/International Editor
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Across the world, protests have erupted due to a variety of reasons; many demonstrations intend to voice opposition to national policy or change in government.

In India, protests in response to a bill affecting farmers have been going on for six months, with the largest protests by numbers in human history, according to the Guardian.

In Myanmar, the United Nations reported that 18 people were killed by security forces during protests against a military coup and calling for the return to democracy, according to The New York Times.

In Spain, protests have been ongoing in response to the arrest and imprisonment of Pablo Hasel, an anti-establishment rapper who was charged with insulting the monarchy and glorifying terrorism, according to Deutsche Welle.

Protests and civil unrest movements are also happening, or have recently happened, in Russia, Belarus, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the United States, Israel, Iran, Sudan, Brazil and others. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which works to track global protests, reported an increase of protests around the world in 2020 compared to 2019. And 2019 was not a calm year for protests either, with many protests in 2020 being continuations of movements started the previous year.

"There has been an increase in protests, both here in the US and around the world," said Shanna Kirschner, assistant professor and chair of the political science department and affiliated faculty in international studies.

According to Kirschner, there have been three trends driving protests: inequality, political discontent and climate change or environmental concerns.

"A lot of this, particularly on the inequality and political discontent fronts, have been exacerbated by (COVID-19)," Kirschner said. "People are experiencing tremendous hardship, not just in the medical sense, but that coming along with a lot of economic difficulties."

Global economic growth has slowed during the pandemic. In 2020, the global gross domestic product, a measurement of economic output, contracted by 3.5%, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Further, there are more people at risk of being undernourished, according to a statement from several organizations including the World Health Organization.

"Food insecurity increases the risk of armed conflict, protests, riots and so insofar as COVID is magnifying a lot of economic hardship for folks, we would expect at this moment that we would see more protest," Kirschner said.

In the first three months of 2021, there seems to be little sign of that trend slowing down.

In particular, protests and violence in response to discontent with the government have occurred in Russia, Myanmar, the United States and India.

In Russia, the anti-corruption activist and politician Alexei Navalny was arrested and imprisoned after returning to Russia from Germany. Navalny was in Germany due to medical evacuation after being poisoned while within Russia.

In Myanmar, a military coup deposed a democratically elected government on Feb. 1. Protests in opposition to military rule have since grown, and, according to the United Nations, 18 people were killed on Feb. 28 when police and security forces shot into crowds of protesters.

The United States also saw violence leading to deaths when the United States Capitol building was stormed by people wishing to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. That day, five people died, according to The Guardian

In India, farmers have been protesting proposed changes to policy that they feel would disadvantage them against larger corporations and risk their livelihoods. According to the Guardian, this has led to hundreds of thousands of farmers protesting throughout the country, with many driving their tractors to the outskirts of Delhi, a district of the capital.

While these protests are happening simultaneously, Kirschner thinks that understanding common causes can be a more useful way for understanding simultaneous global protests rather than only looking at time frames.

"I think that it is more important to think about what are common causes," Kirschner said, "because that gives you a sense of why that's happening and how we might address it, than just it is happening at this moment, and it might be happening for completely different reasons."

There is also a sense that, due to the interconnectedness of the modern world, people learn about protests from examples of it happening elsewhere.

"Folks are not unaware of what is happening in other countries," Kirschner said. "They see models, they see examples, and they think about what is possible in their own lives."

Kirschner explained that evidence has emerged suggesting that protests in Nigeria and Brazil in response to police killings were directly inspired by protests in the United States.

There are also several factors that have made it easier to protest.

"People being either out of work or working from home makes it easier to attend a protest, and the more widespread protests become, the easier it is to find a protest near you," Kirschner said. "There's a snowballing effect of some of these dynamics which is also making these protests bigger and bigger and bigger."

Kirschner thinks that the world is currently in a wave of protests that are driven by inequality, political discontent and climate and environmental grievances.

"People were more likely to show up to protests unrelated to the pandemic if they had been experiencing economic hardship," Kirschner said. "Because they are just mad, they want to go protest."

> The more widespread protests become, the easier it is to find a protest near you. There's a snowballing effect of some of these dynamics which is also making these protests bigger and bigger and bigger"
>
> —SHANNA KIRSCHNER
> Assistant Professor and Chair of Political Science, Allegheny College

Compliance vital to return of athletics

By **JORDAN GREYNOLDS**
Features Editor
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It has been almost a year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and almost nothing has been the same since then. With current cases dropping around the country, Allegheny College has plans to start getting back to normal.

One of the larger steps towards normalcy is the return of competition in athletics. Most winter and spring sports are scheduled to have a season, although winter sports will be shortened.

Plans have been put in place, but compliance is necessary in order to execute them.

The return of students to campus also brought the return of the Gator Pledge. Adhering to these rules will dictate how successfully the college will be able to pull off this all-in-one sports season.

Although Athletic Director Bill Ross was unable to speak on any disciplinary issues among student-athletes, he could confirm that none of Allegheny's sports teams that are without competitive seasons are in that situation due to non-compliance.

"What we wanted to make sure first and foremost was that the spring sports didn't have another season taken away from them because of COVID," Ross said.

He also explained that the next priority for athletics was to make sure that winter sports were able to at least play a condensed schedule, since many of their seasons were interrupted last year.

Due to the nature of training for sports like swimming and diving, Ross noted that the late return date to campus made it too hard for them to build up to competition that would resemble what they are accustomed to.

Indoor track is another sports season that has been nixed in favor of only having an outdoor track season.

Although none of Allegheny's sports teams had any competition last semester, most were able to practice in a progressively more game-like environment. Teams will still have to go through this phase-in approach but can progress at a faster pace this time around.

"Practices will look similar for all of the teams leading up to a certain point," Ross said. "As long as everything goes well with positivity rate and everything that we've got to monitor to safely move on, then we're looking to move into what the NCAA calls phase three of training. That's where you can actually have competition, intrasquad scrimmages and all of that good stuff.

The college is confident that they will have a sports season and have released the winter and spring sports' schedules to reflect that confidence.

Unlike large, division one colleges who can separate their athletes from the rest of campus, student-athletes at Allegheny live and go to classes with the rest of the student body. As a result, compliance from all students will be vital to the success of this year's sports season.

Allegheny students have a good track record in this regard as positive cases on campus have stayed very low throughout the entire academic year.

Fraternities, sororities and other organizations on campus have had to change the way they do things in order to maneuver their way through this pandemic.

"COVID changed everything, to be honest with you," said Phi Gamma Delta president Marcus Wolf, '22. "Obviously all the typical 'frat stuff' that's classified with us just naturally all went down the drain for the most part."

> Obviously all the typical 'frat stuff' that's classified with us, just naturally all went down the drain for the most part."
>
> —MARCUS WOLF
> Class of 2022

By holding most of their fraternity meetings virtually, FIJI has steered clear of any compliance issues and has only had one positive COVID-19 case.

As the college introduces the concept of functional groups, organizations will be allowed to do more things in-person.

"We've looked into (functional groups) to do some outdoor things like grilling out or having campfires and stuff like that," Wolf said.

Similarly, Alpha Chi Omega has also avoided any compliance issues and are considering using the school's new concept for outdoor activities as well.

"One thing we talked about over break was going sled riding as functional groups," said Alpha Chi Omega president Madison Miller, '22.

While students will still be held to a high standard of safety, the expectation is that there will be more leniency from the college in regards to in-person meetings and activities for non-athletic clubs.

This leniency does not come as a result of compliance fatigue, but rather is in accordance with the current health status of the college.

Given the college's plans for sports seasons and introduction of functional groups, students can expect to see Allegheny in its most normal state since students were sent home last March.

ATTENTION:
If you have contracted COVID-19 and would be interested in sharing your story with The Campus for inclusion in an article, please contact Sami Mirza at <mirza01>

CAMPUS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Origami Making *5pm - 12am, Campus Center Game Room*
Learn how to make origami in the Game Room

Ice Rink, *6pm - 10pm, Campus Center Parking Lot*
Skates and refreshments will be provided

Socially Distanced Meet N' Greet, *8pm - 10pm, 292 Loomis St. Meadville*
Come meet the Outing Club and learn about their group hikes and getting involved

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Hike with the Outing Club *10:30am - 11:30am*
Robertson Athletic Center
Join the Outing Club for the first hike of the spring semester

Origami Making *Noon - 12pm, Campus Center Game Room*
Learn how to make origami in the Game Room

Midwinter Festival *1:30pm - 3pm, Gator Quad*
Hot drinks, snacks, and activities. Hosted by SRL

Ice Rink, *6pm - 10pm, Campus Center Parking Lot*
Skates and refreshments will be provided

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Bike with the Outing Club *9:30am - 12:30pm,Woodcock Dam*
Sign-ups available on the Programming and Events Calendar

Origami Making *12pm - 12am, Campus Center Game Room*
Learn how to make origami in the Game Room

Ice Rink, *1pm - 5pm, Campus Center Parking Lot*
Skates and refreshments will be provided

MONDAY, MARCH 8

Contributing Writers's Meeting *8pm - 8:30pm,Google Meet*
Interested in writing for The Campus? Swing by and pick up a story! Contact <<woodfille>> for details

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Performance Anxiety Art Panel *5:30pm, Google Meet*
A discussion with artists from the latest exhibition at the Allegheny Art Galleries. Sign-up available on the Programming and Events Calendar

ASG Presidential & Vice Presidential Debates *7pm - 8pm, Campus Center Lobby*
The debates for the ASG Presidential Election. Attend safely in-person or virtually through alleghenystudentgovernment.org

Lovingkindness Meditation, *8pm - 8:30pm, Zoom*
Join Prof. Hellwarth for 30 minutes of medidation, at Zoom ID <<97088487490>>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

WestPACS Job & Internship Fair *10:00am - 4:00pm, Virtual*
Register today to schedule conversations with potential employers. Contact the Allegheny College Career Center for details

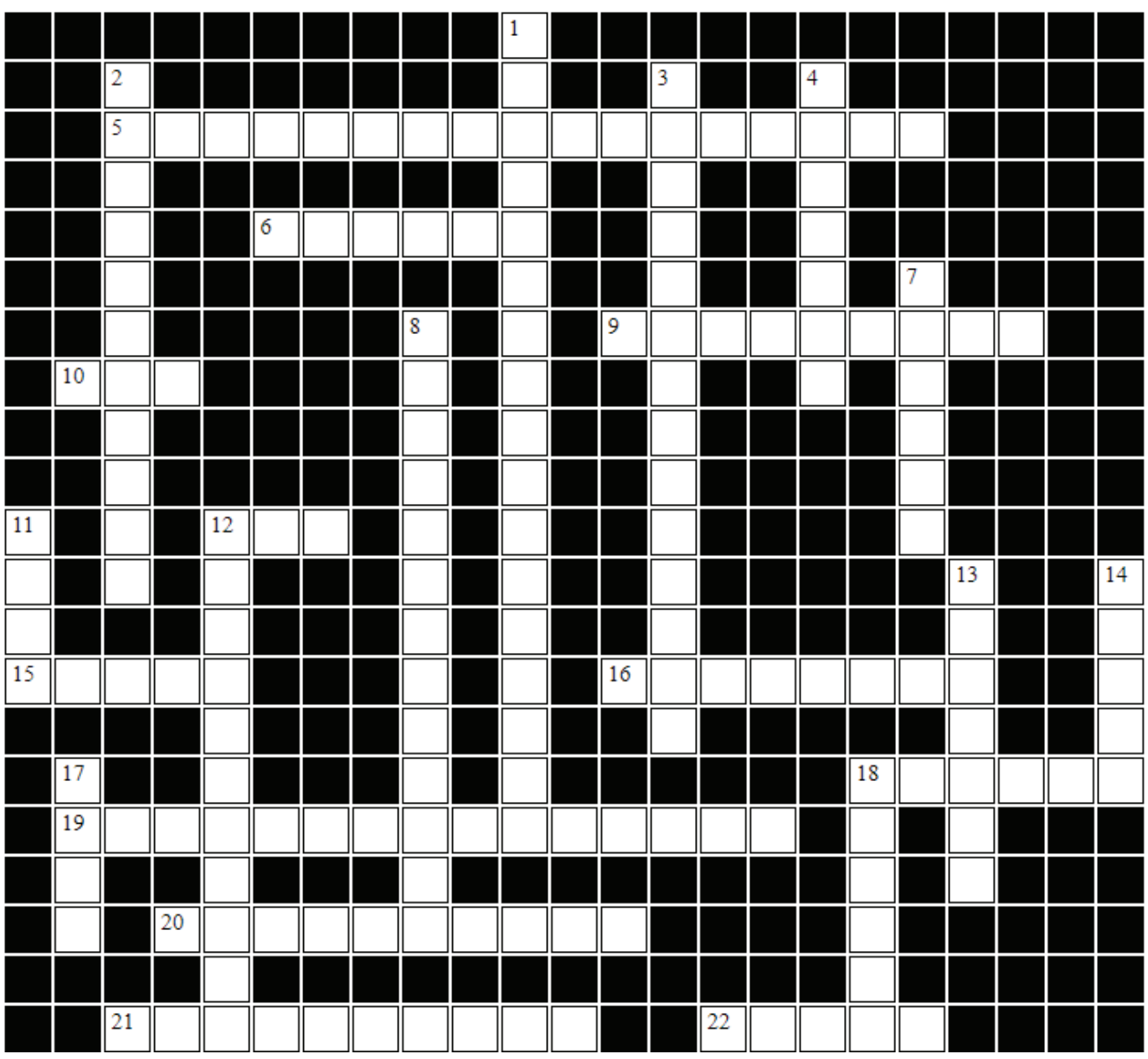
Capture the Flag *4pm - 5pm, Brooks Circle*
It's capture the flag. What else is there to say?

Virtual Yoga Class, *4pm, Zoom*
Work out your stress with a virtual yoga class. Class is accessible for all fitness levels. Contact Danielle at <<dpecar>> for details

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

SEA Weekly Meeting *7pm - 8pm, Google Meet*
Join the Students for Environmental Action to discuss environmental topics both here at Allegheny and worldwide. Join at meet.google.com/bnh-ydmj-kng

Editor's note: If you have a question or would like to submit an event for the Campus Calendar, please email Sami Mirza at <<mirza01>>



ACROSS

5. A unique way to descirve critical thinking skills (two words)
6. _____ Penny, who co-wrote *State of Terror*
9. _____ Football Club, defendng Premier League champs
10. Number of students who tested positive in the scond round of testing
12. This contracted by 3.5% in 2020
15. Where the largest protests by numbers in human history are taking place
16. Character who's getting a theme park at Legoland Florida (two words)
18. Company with technology that connects your hand print to your credit card
19. Assistant professor and chair in Political Science department (two words)
20. President of the FIJI fraternity (two words)
21. Peyton Britt's major
22. Number of games in a typical Gator baseball season

DOWN

1. Our Editorial Cartoonist (three words)
2. Director of Major Capital Projects (two words)
3. Senior who doesn't think that Liverpool will finish in the top four (two words)
4. General contractor for the Bentley Hall project
7. March ____, date campus quarantine was supposed to end
8. First opponent for the women's basketball team (two words)
11. Nickname for a fraternity with only one positive COVID-19 case
12. Professor of ECON 230 working with the admin on health messaging (two words)
13. Nation where the Premier League plays
14. Number of athletic teams NOT playing a spring season
17. Acronym for an exam that focuses heavily on reasoning and logic
18. Original month of completion for Bentley Hall

ANSWER KEY
ACROSS
5. Learning lubricant, 6. Louie, 9. Liverpool, 10. six, 12. GDP, 15. India, 16. Peppa Pig, 18. Amazon, 19. Shanna Kirschner, 20. Marcus Wolf, 21. Philosophy, 22. forty
DOWN
1. Kaleel Van Voorhees, 2. Cliff Willis, 3. Kristian Snyder, 4. Massaro, 7. fourth, 8. Mount Aloysius, 11. FIJI, 12. Gaia Rancati, 13. England, 14. nine, 17. LSAT, 18. August

Bentley completion delayed to May

By **SAMI MIRZA**
Features Editor
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SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Plastic sheeting covers unfinished stonework on the south entrance of Bentley Hall, as seen through the site's chain-link fence

Bentley Hall has stood for almost two centuries as the symbol of Allegheny College and — for several decades — was the only building on campus. Nicholas Woronchuk, '21, remembers the building as laden with history.

"Going into it, you could tell it was old," Woronchuk said. "Just the way it was constructed, the floor was uneven from the years of boards warping. They had this really cool wooden staircase in there that you had to climb to get up to the registrar's office. And, you know, walking in and walking around and looking at everything and smelling the building, you definitely got the sense that it was old, but they maintained it very well, everything was finished."

In 2018, construction began to modernize the building's infrastructure and restore both the interior and exterior, originally scheduled to be completed in August of 2020. Now, eight months later, hard hats are still required, plastic sheeting still hangs over the entrances, and a chain-link fence still surrounds the site.

Director of Major Capital Projects Cliff Willis cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the source of the construction delays.

Willis explained that supply chains are being disrupted across the country and around the world, and that has limited the supply of building materials to the site. The pandemic has also hit the construction team.

"We've had a couple instances of positive COVID tests and (we've) been able to take prompt action and keep working without spreading on the job," Willis said. "But work certainly has gone slower. Just the fact that people have to work (while) wearing face masks all the time — when you're doing physical labor for eight-plus hours a day, it takes its toll on you."

> "Bentley Hall was Allegheny College when the college was launched, and it's meant now to become a vibrant center for the college, a place that should be more livened than it was."
>
> —RON COLE, '87
> Provost and Dean of the College, Allegheny College

Willis also noted that changes with the availability of the subcontractors have adjusted the project's completion date.

"Sometimes subcontractors have had to direct their workforces elsewhere so they'll either have a reduced presence or no presence on the job for a while," Willis said. "All of those (factors) have combined to impact the schedule, and it's caused (the schedule) to slip a number of times."

Some work still remains on the exterior of the building, though most has already been finished.

"The preponderance of the exterior work has been completed," Willis said. "However, we are having to redo the flat roof at the base of the bell tower. The original work was not acceptable and would not be warranted by the manufacturer. The subcontractor who's performing that work has returned to campus and they are redoing that work . . . We have a slight bit of concrete to do on the sidewalk that leads to the north entrance, and the north portico is being restored, the columns are being returned, and final plaques will be put back on the building to complete that work."

Once this exterior work is completed, Willis expects the outer trappings of construction to be removed and for the building to appear finished from the outside.

"All the construction debris and equipment has to be removed," Willis said. "We'll do final grading of the site and the planting of the grass. That work will take place in early springtime, (and) we're hoping to have it completed in April."

On the interior, a wide variety of work still remains. While the wood trim on the second floor has been "essentially" completed, Willis said that such work is still in progress on the first, third and ground floors.

Last week, measurements were taken for the glass walls of Bentley's seminar room, which Willis expects to be delivered towards the end of March.

The renovation to the seminar room reflects the "holistic improvement" to Bentley that Ron Cole, '87, provost and dean of the college, sees in the work. He thinks that the new and improved Bentley can serve as a focal point for the entire college community.

"The goal for Bentley is to restore it close to its original form," Cole said. "Bentley Hall was Allegheny College when the college was launched, and it's meant now to become a vibrant center for the college, a place that should be more livened than it was."

By having the building serve as a common space, he hopes that it will ease tensions between the student body and the administration.

"It will help to bridge gaps," Cole said. "It will help to show students where some of the administration works, who the administration is. It will help administrators keep front of mind the student experience, which is by-and-large why we're all here."

However, not all students agree with Cole. In a poll on The Campus' Instagram account, only 29 of the 95 respondents thought that a renovated Bentley Hall would improve the student experience at Allegheny — around 30.5%. And the work is still months away from being finished.

"The present schedule, which I got today, shows the 22nd of April as project completion," Willis said. "That would be work done by Massaro, the general contractor. We still have interior work that has to be done, that's the college's responsibility."

That interior work ranges from installing artwork and plaques to redoing the flooring entirely.

"In the second and third floor corridor, in the conference room, in each stairway, in the offices of the President's two (staffers), will be custom carpet that's coming from the United Kingdom," Willis said. "That carpet has not arrived in-country yet. We anticipate it arriving sometime in mid-April. It comes in separate pieces and has to be sewn together for installation. We're anticipating right now if there are no problems with the pandemic, with shipping and delivery, that that work should be done by mid-May."

With commencement scheduled for May 22, the college isn't currently planning to move administrative offices back into Bentley before the end of the spring semester.

"What's likely is, with the semester coming to an end, we probably won't do it then because there are a lot of activities for the offices that are going to be moving back into Bentley," Willis said.

A late-May or early-June conclusion would extend the project to almost a year after construction was planned to be finished. Still, the project has yet to experience any cost overruns.

"We still have contingency money to spend," Willis said. "There are some expenses that our contractor has had to deal with themselves that's outside the scope of the contract. Right now, we're under budget."

Woronchuck, for one, believes the administration. He sees no incentive for the college to fabricate the operational budget when they've already invested so much into the project.

"I think they would be inclined to go over-budget because it's such a historic building, and it's kind of the centerpiece of campus," Woronchuck said. "I think regardless they would have found money or put forth the money to finish it."

Almost three-quarters of respondents to an Instagram poll — 68 responses of 92 total responses — said they do not believe that the Bentley project is running under budget.

Over the next few weeks, students can expect to see the plastic tents on the exterior removed, and for the final grading of the site to take place.

Comedy Column

By **KALEEL VAN VOORHEES**
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In Winter Haven, Florida, a Peppa Pig theme-park is set to open in 2022 at the Legoland Florida Resort. The theme-park is designed to include themed playscapes, water play-areas, live shows and the infamous 'Muddy Puddles,' becoming the first 'little ones' all-inclusive-day-adventure. The resort went through several names before deciding on Peppa Pig — in an unreleased report, names such as Jurassic Pork, Swine Lake, Twisted Tails and May-ham were all seriously considered.

In a new development, Amazon has allowed customers to pay for items with just a wave of their hand. Called 'Amazon One,' the program connects your hand print to a stored credit card, which you then wave over a sensor to at check-out free 'Amazon Go' stores. Let's just say I can see this going very wrong (i.e. paying for something accidentally five times over, paying for your friend's items after you wave hello, going bankrupt for being friendly, going to a concert and putting your hands up in the air only to find you've paid someone your entire life savings, etc.). The takeaway — it pays to be friendly.

In Phoenix Arizona, a Purple Heart was left at a local Goodwill. Teresa Ferrin, an employee of Goodwill, decided to track down the family and return the medal. Ferrin discovered that the Purple Heart belonged to a Korean War veteran named Erik Karl Blauberg, who passed away in 1988 and was able to reunite the award with two of his eight children. In other news, my own heart has also gone missing — Ferrin if you're out there, I need you.

With the upcoming Hurricane season near, the Atlantic and East Pacific Basins have recently released a list of hurricane names for the 2021 year. These hurricane names specifically include characters from the movie 'Frozen': Ana, Elsa and Olaf (in that order). Guess the National Hurricane Center really 'Let it go' this round.

In North Carolina, a man won a $500,000 Powerball prize after entering the numbers he found on his fortune cookie. In other news, my Dad just found his fortune cookie to be blank. Apparently, he has no future.

Hillary Clinton and Canadian mystery novelist Louise Penny have joined forces to write a political thriller called 'State of Terror.' The book is set to be published October 12, 2021 by Simon & Schuster and St. Martin's Press. While the novel is centered around Clinton's experiences as the former Secretary of State, I believe it's accurate to say we've all been in a state of terror, too.

The Other Plagues

By **KALEEL VAN VOORHEES**
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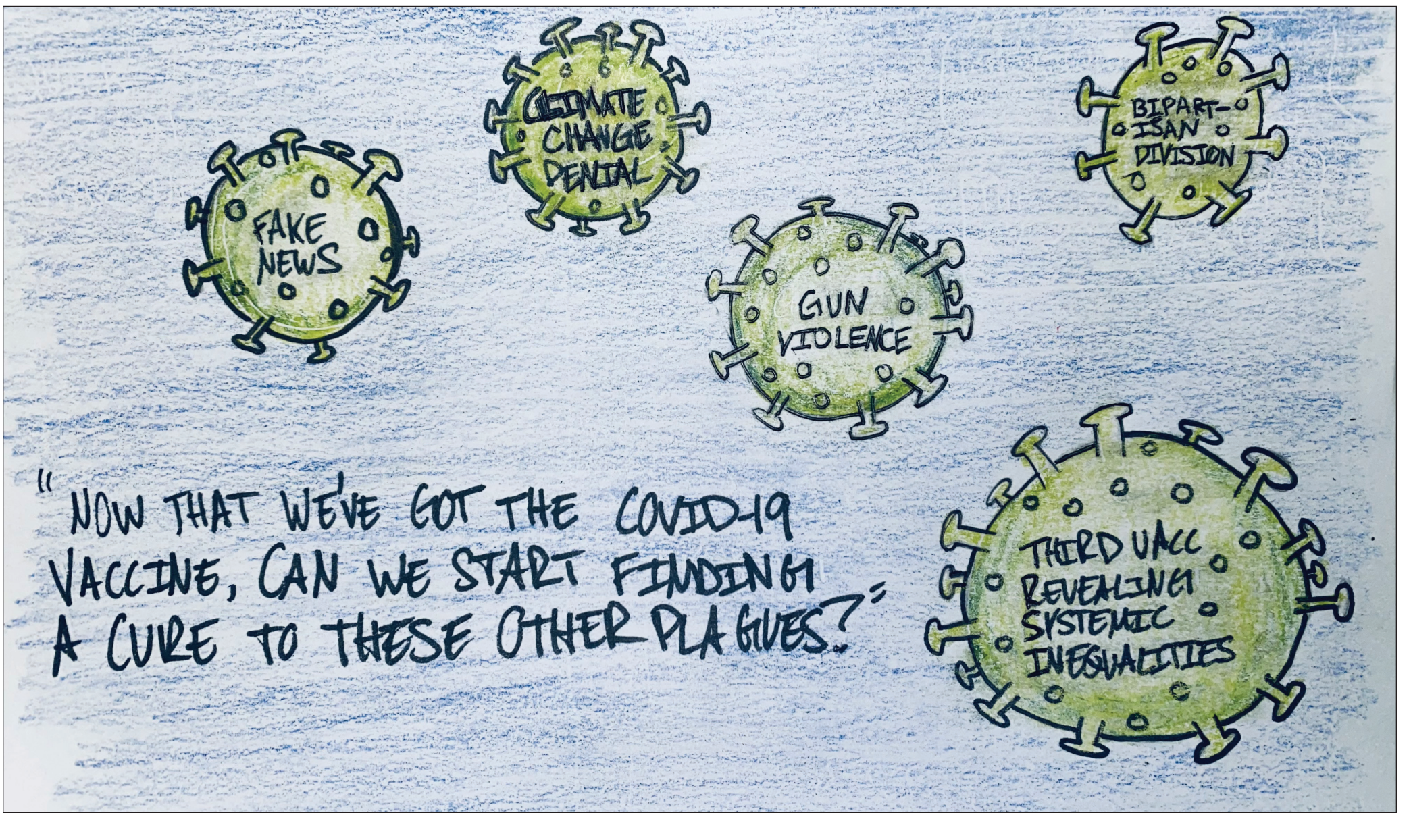

Allegheny unveils spring season plan

By **ADAM COHEN**
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For the first time in nearly a year, there will be NCAC sporting events at Allegheny College. The announcement was made by the Allegheny Gators website on Feb. 23. Spring sports teams and several winter sports teams will be playing a season this semester. However, fall and other winter sports teams such as men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, men's football, women's volleyball and women's field hockey are unlikely to play a season this spring.

Allegheny will be playing in the conference's East division along with the College of Wooster, Hiram College, and Kenyon College. The East division was originally supposed to have five teams altogether, but Oberlin backed out before the schedule was set. Additionally, the winner of the East division will host the winner of the West division in a championship series. The West division consists of Depauw, Wabash, Denison, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wittenberg.

Baseball Head Coach Brandon Crum credits the Allegheny College Health Agency, who were determined to put together a spring season. "It's been very collaborative," Crum said. "The committees on the campus — from our ACHA, to the training staff and the administration on campus — helped figure out how to play a season safely. It's taken a lot to get here."

Despite there being more pressure on each team to win a playoff berth, Crum looks forward to the challenge of winning the East division and winning the NCAC championship as well.

"If we happen to win our side of the conference, we would technically host the conference championship for one of the first times in school history, so we are very excited," Crum said.

Most teams are expected to play their first game in late March or early April. Therefore, Allegheny teams will have to make the most of their practices in the following weeks to prepare for the start of the season. Crum went into detail about the COVID-19 protocols his team follows during the preseason workouts.

"The games are the easiest thing we will do," Crum said. "It's the training with the COVID-19 policies that are the hardest. We have small pods of 10 people or less, less time inside and outside, and our practices are less than an hour each day."

Every practice is crucial because many athletes were unable to train at home throughout the pandemic and cold weather in between semesters. Women's Tennis Head Coach Taylor Coffman emphasized the importance of having a few weeks to train before the games begin.

"One of the priorities for our athletic department and the ACHA is phasing the athletes in," Coffman said. "Just because of where students are coming from, everything might be shut down around them. So they might have not been able to go to the gym or could have been snowed in."

Besides limiting practices, Allegheny and the other NCAC teams also decided to play one college team per week. This way, if there is a potential outbreak of the virus, the spread would be limited to fewer institutions. Nevertheless, since each NCAC team only plays one institution a week, some of Allegheny's sports teams are having both home and away games against the school they are facing in the same week.

For example, the Allegheny's baseball team is scheduled for many doubleheaders at Robertson Field and on the road.

In a normal season, the Gators play around 40 games, but this year the Gators' baseball team will play 27 games. Other teams, such as the men's and women's tennis teams, are expected to have even fewer games, and only have one match a week. Usually, the tennis season consists of 20 matches, but are only scheduled for nine matches this season.

Besides scheduling, the measures taken during the pandemic affect each team differently. Sports that require closer contact will have their players tested more frequently than the average Allegheny student. However, the athletes on sports teams that allow for more social distancing — such as golf and tennis — will be tested the same amount as other Allegheny students.

Additionally, sports that require less close contact will still take preemptive measures to protect themselves from the virus. Men's and Women's Golf Head Coach Jeff Groff explained how his athletes will stay safe during meets.

"The nature of golf itself is to be socially-distanced," Groff said. "Obviously you don't have to shake hands, touch each other or be within six feet of each other when walking from the tee to the green from hole to hole."

Since golf is a socially-distanced sport, Groff mentioned that while on the course, masks may be optional for the athletes. "I am not really sure," Groff said. "I don't think my players will have to do that. If the players do need to wear masks then that is fine. However, when traveling in a van, or car, then obviously we will have the masks on."

There is still a debate across the NCAC whether or not players are obligated to wear a mask in the field of play. When athletes are traveling, or not directly taking part in the game, they are expected to be wearing masks and are socially distanced from one another.

The NCAC is also trying to stop the spread of the virus by starting off the season with no fans at any of their sporting events. This rule could be re-evaluated over the course of the season, and Coffman believes that either outcome could occur.

"If we go a whole season without spectators, then we go a whole season without spectators," Coffman said. "At least we get to have a season."

Sports fans can look forward to the spring season starting on March 19, where the Women's Basketball team plays a non-conference game on the road against Mount Aloysius at 5:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of https://sites.allegheny.edu
An aerial view of Robertson Field, where several spring sports teams will begin play after almost a year off due to COVID-19.

An unpredictable Premier League season winds down

By **TRAVIS LUXBACHER**
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Much is to be determined during the final two months of the Premier League soccer season in England, a year removed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Liverpool Football Club rolled to the league title last season — their first in the Premier League era, which started in 1992. This season has been less straight-forward, and as of now there is no clear favorite to take home the Premier League trophy.

Allegheny student Owen Harkins, '21, touched on the title race this season and how he sees it shaping up during the final couple of months.

"Right now, Manchester City is my favorite." Harkins said. "Their current string of play has been very deadly and they have been unbeaten for a long stretch of time."

Harkins credited Manchester City for their ability to play their best in big moments, especially now with it being late in the season. He believes that could wind up being a key factor in the final result come season's end.

"They're a team finding their stride at the right moment of the season and I feel like it is going to carry down the stretch and they'll eventually lock up the title here fairly soon," Harkins said.

Harkins highlighted how the next few games will be extremely important in determining this season's title race.

"I do believe Manchester City should be considered the odds on favorite to win this year's title based on their current form, but you never know because it is the Premier League," Harkins said. "There is a reason why it is considered the greatest league in the world, because anyone can win the league at any time, any year, so the next few weeks will definitely be important.

> "(Manchester City's) current string of play has been very deadly and they have been unbeaten for a long stretch of time."
>
> —OWEN HARKINS
> Class of 2021

Harkins compared Manchester City's campaign to Liverpool's title winning season last year. He emphasized the importance of consistency in order to reach that great level that the Reds displayed in the 2019-2020 season.

"I think in the current form City has right now they could run away with it, being very similar to what Liverpool did last season," Harkins said. "However, if Manchester United is able to get their act together and Manchester City slips up a little bit then I feel like they can pull it back a little bit and turn it into a two or three horse race here down the stretch."

Outside of the race for the elusive Premier League title, the top four positions in the league and a place in the Champions League are close.

Kristian Snyder, '21, a Liverpool fan, discussed his team's Champions League chances and whether or not Liverpool's season has been a disappointment.

"Virgial Van Djik, Liverpool's captain and one of the greatest central defenders in the world tore his ACL in the beginning of the season, and that is one of the biggest reasons as to why Liverpool has been struggling so much this season as compared to last," Snyder said. "That injury, along with others to some of our most influential players has been a major factor in the team's decline over the past year."

Liverpool is uncharacteristically in danger of not qualifying for the Champions League. With with some surprise teams around them in the league table, Snyder is concerned that it is quickly slipping out of their reach.

"I personally don't think Liverpool will finish in the top four," Snyder said. "Especially with Van Djik injured, he's that rock at the back that they'll be missing."

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic has played a major role in an unusual season in the Premier League. Fans and experts alike believe that it has had an impact on teams and possibly the final standings at the end of the season.

Thiago Nardi, '22, touched on the impact he believes the pandemic has had on soccer over the past 12 months.

"I think COVID in general has affected every league around the world, not only the Premier League," Nardi said. "But definitely when you have teams such as Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester United with a big fan base that makes a huge impact as other teams don't have the pressure from the fans, giving them better opportunities against the bigger clubs."

The current Premier League season continues through the end of May, and at that time a title winner will finally be crowned in England.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Editor's Note:
*The weekly COVID-19 data is compiled using the COVID-19 Case Dashboard available on sites.allegheny.edu/covid19. Case counts listed above are collected the Thursday before publication. *This is the last recorded positivity rate from the week of Feb. 22, 2021.*

ACTIVE STUDENT CASES	ACTIVE EMPLOYEE CASES	QUARANTINE
15	0	52
POSITIVE TESTS SINCE JAN. 13	**POSITIVITY RATE***	**AVAILABLE QUARANTINE BEDS**
29	0.51%	82.7%